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Ministry of Education

$1.9M FOR SEISMIC UPGRADES TO SENATOR REID ELEMENTARY

SURREY – The Province is investing $1.9 million for seismic upgrades to Senator Reid elementary school to ensure that it continues to be a safe place for staff and students, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced today.

"This upgrade to Senator Reid elementary is part of the Province's $1.5-billion seismic plan and another step towards making all schools in B.C. earthquake safe," said Bond. "Staff and students spend a lot of time in our schools, so it's important that our schools are safe places in which to learn, work and play."

The funding will be used to upgrade the existing giant brick exterior walls, create new interior shear walls with the addition of plywood sheathing to some wood framing, and improve the structural connections between the roof, shear walls and foundations. The south and west classroom wings will be seismically isolated from the remainder of the school.

"The Surrey school board is very appreciative of the ministry's support in improving the safety and learning environment for Senator Reid students," said Surrey school board chair Shawn Wilson. "I know that it will also be welcomed and appreciated by the school community and serve to add to the sense of pride that students have for their school."

Included in the $1.9-million investment is $200,000 to install 10 portables that will house students during the construction. The portables will be used to house students during seismic upgrades at Senator Reid and other schools in the district.

Senator Reid is the second Surrey school to be seismically upgraded under the Province's $1.5-billion seismic plan, and seven other seismic projects are currently in the feasibility study stage. The Province has invested nearly $141.6 million in 27 capital projects in the Surrey school district since 2001.

Since 2001, government has invested over $1 billion on 26 new schools, 31 replacements, 140 additions, 30 renovations and four seismic projects. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than $2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects across British Columbia.

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